



# Tift County High School

One Blue Devil Way  
TIFTON, GEORGIA 31794-1702

Telephone (229) 387-2475  
FAX (229) 386-1022  
[www.tiftschools.com/tchs](http://www.tiftschools.com/tchs)

*Assistant Principals:*  
Dr. Eric Holland  
Don Jarrett  
Misty Tucker  
Shac Tucker

Kim Seigler  
*Principal*

January 7, 2015

Mrs. Helen Rice  
Chairman  
Georgia State Board of Education

Dear Mrs. Rice:

As a veteran high school English teacher with over 20 years of classroom experience and the current President of the Georgia Council of Teachers of English, I want to take this opportunity to write to the State Board in support of the recently revised state standards in English/Language Arts.

Since I began my teaching career, the state of Georgia has progressed from the QCCs (which were revised) through GPS and into the current CC-GPS. I was privileged as a classroom teacher to be asked to participate on the review committee that met this past fall to review and offer possible revisions for the standards. Through this process, I recognized the desires of our state educational leadership to maintain a rigorous standards document. I also appreciated the opportunity for diverse voices from the classroom, from parents, and from college-level educators to be a part of the review process.

In fact, all involved in the review process took the input from teachers very seriously when considering what, if any, changes needed to be made to improve our standards document. I hope that our leaders will see our curriculum as a work in progress, moving toward the goal of having the best standards possible to prepare the students of Georgia to be ready to move to the next level of their lives and be successful in their post-secondary choices in this rapidly changing world. While this letter is meant to voice my support of the revised standards, it is also meant to show my appreciation for allowing experts in the field (i.e., teachers) to share what it is students should know, understand, and do at each level of their education.

Finally, I am proud to teach a vital, living, rigorous curriculum such as the one prescribed by the revised English/Language Arts standards. I am satisfied that my own children, two daughters who attend Tift County Schools, have better learning opportunities and a more challenging learning environment because of the work we have done to improve standards in our state.

Sincerely,

Dr. Julie H. Rucker  
Tift County Schools 2015 Teacher of the Year  
President, Georgia Council of Teachers of English